



LINKAGES

February 2015 – December 2019

Total Funding: \$9 million

USAID's LINKAGES project aims to strengthen HIV response in Angola to help reduce HIV transmission among female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, and people who inject drugs, all identified by UNAIDS as key populations. The project's main objective is to ensure that these communities have access to prevention, care, treatment and services. LINKAGES also promotes structural interventions that pave the way for an AIDS-free generation in Angola.

The project provides technical assistance and builds the capacity of the Angolan Government, through the National HIV/AIDS Institute and collaborating partners, to efficiently and effectively design, implement, manage, and monitor a sustainable continuum of prevention, care and treatment response. LINKAGES also works to ramp up the capacity of local civil society organizations partners.

ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen the capacity of Ministry of Health (MOH), civil society organizations, and private sector service providers to deliver high quality HIV services to key populations - from prevention and enrollment in care and treatment to successful viral suppression
- Support community activities in ten districts of Luanda province and provide technical support and training on sexual orientation, gender identity, stigma, discrimination and gender-based violence to nine PEPFAR health facilities
- Work with peer educators in community mobilization to provide HIV testing, referrals to clinics for care and treatment and support groups of people living with HIV to improve adherence to treatment
- Design, implement and report on comprehensive local assessments and surveys that build on existing data to better inform size estimates and mapping of Key Population (KP) hot spots
- Assist KPs, service providers, government leaders and others to stimulate increased demand for services
- Develop and strengthen focused activities in areas where key population density and HIV prevalence is high
- Support MOHs, key population groups and other local stakeholders in using the HIV Cascade Toolkit to undertake collaborative HIV cascade analyses and associated key population /gender analyses
- Assist local stakeholders to develop country-specific strategies and interventions

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 8,243 key population members were reached with prevention activities
- 4,114 key population members were tested for HIV
- 302 key population members diagnosed HIV positive and received their results
- 165 key population members are in HIV treatment
- 135 HIV positive key population members are in care

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